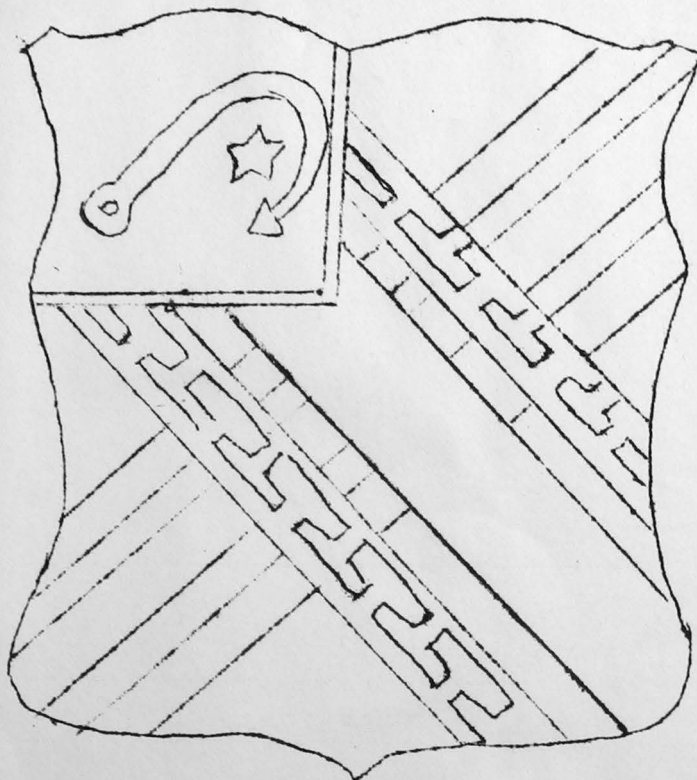


HOOK & STAR

VOL. III NO. VI

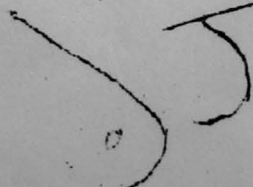
3d Battalion-18th Artillery

JUNE 28, 1969



THROUGH DIFFICULTIES TO THE STARS

BRINSING
SMOKE



HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

The month of June has seen many new arrivals and departures within Headquarters Battery. Personnel returning to "the world" include Major Evans, Major Nobles (two eminent volleyball referees), CPT Frick, CW4 Schierer, CW2 Severin, Sp5 Irvin, Sp5 Brome, Sp4 Dufresne, Sp4 Swidorsky, PFC Scott and PFC Wheat.

Arrivals during June include Major Dingess, SFC Dubick, Sp5 Carilo, Sp4 Vandavelde, Sp4 Schultz, Sp4 Lang, Sp4 Hunt, Sp4 Dubiel, PFC Tompkins, PFC Smith, PFC Schultz, PFC Massie, PFC Lawler and PFC Barrows. These newly assigned personnel are very fortunate to arrive during the "cooler" part of the year instead of the hot summer ahead.

Improvements completed during the last month consist mainly of the FDC area where cement sidewalks have been constructed and the FDC complex completely renovated. Reliable sources indicate these projects have been completed as part of Major Nobles going away present.

The commo platoon has also been busy. They have almost completed a concrete switchboard bunker located between FLC and the Battalions CO's quarters. This way if Swatter fails to answer, immediate action can be taken.

A Battalion library is almost completed and the opening date will be announced soon. This library although indiscreetly "hidden" in the Headquarters Battery orderly room is available to the entire battalion. It will be open during the evening from 1800 hrs. until 2000 hrs. The sign out period on each book is two weeks. At the end of that period if the book isn't returned the individual automatically incurs a six month extension to his foreign service tour. Sp5 Perault has already had such an experience. No, the penalty for not returning a book is nothing, but it is hoped that individuals will return their book promptly.

Do you know that you can select a post of your choice in CONUS? See your career counselor on Artillery Hill.

Several main bulletins for June include: "Don't fly United" - One of their pilots, Sp4 Close, can't drive a 1/4 ton vehicle without hitting a 2 1/2 ton vehicle. I wonder what he does behind the controls of a 727?

First Sergeant Simpson has officially become an artilleryman largely through the moral support offered by Sp5 Dressler. He promises to talk about tanks only once an hour. What is the range of the 8" Howitzer First Sergeant?

The original exiting colors of the FDC billets will fade to a dull gray. I know because I just confirmed it through Sp4 Araujo.

Congratulations PFC Joy on your job advancement. Now let's recover those socks that Collins lost. What will you do now that the Quartermaster laundry is out of water for a week.



"YOU SECURITY BOYS DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES, EH TRAPTITE!"

All of Mays readers who took delight in our meager attack at this monthly release are all one month shorter! Other occurrences being only secondary to the pleasantness of tearing off a page from that short timers calendar on the wall.

Now that the paramount of this article has been duly covered, I will outline those secondary events occurring here at A Battery.

During the month we experienced two C-130 ammunition air drops. It was a sight to behold; which may account for the very curious audience of highers who were here at the fire base to experience the first of the two drops. The air drops were deemed a complete success. Much of the credit for this mission must go to the men who worked long hard hours gathering the projos up from scattered locations along the river. For good reason one sortie of ammo remained after the others were gathered up, but has since been removed.

Near mutiny broke out in A Battery when our SUPPORTING element on Artillery Hill borrowed our 30k generator. Now Artillery Hill can resume living conditions they enjoyed prior to their generator mishap, thanks to A Battery.

The men of A Battery welcomed the appointment of 1Lt Raines as Executive Officer. He has replaced the departed 1Lt Poole. We are all confident that his superior performance in the past will be carried on to his new post.

A building rage has struck the immediate area, which has been implemented by 1SGT Solomon. Noticeable changes in the terrain are taking place at a rapid pace. It won't be long before we'll have built a home away from home, Army style.

General U.S. Grant to General Robert E. Lee as General Lee was about to surrender at Appomatax:

"Are you aware of your rights under Article 31?"

Our battery roster will undergo a multitude of changes in the forthcoming month. Lost through the unmerciful infusion system, the following "good guys" were unwillingly transferred to new assignments; PFC Gonzales, PFC Bomhoff, PFC Ariano, PFC Pappas and PFC Bell. Additions are being entered on the plus side of this roster to alleviate a shortage we are never quite able to overcome. A Battery heartily welcomes 1 Lt Kiley, Sp4 Scott, Sp4 Gutierrez, PFC Alexander, PFC Gonslaves, PFC Cordoza, PFC Lee, PFC Cordova Garcia, PFC Sly and PFC King.

These trifles, I am happy to say, sum up our act for the month of June.



BRAVOS BUGLER

Proving the success of an earlier visit, Bravos eight inch platoon left the LZ Ross R&R center in late May for a return engagement at Tam Ky International Airport. (Editors Note: Since the writing of this article, the eight inch platoon has completed its engagement at Tam Ky International Airport. They are now appearing live and in person at the plush and exotic LZ Young. (Continued on page)

Have you heard about the new 12 month early out program? It's called Sweden?

"That's my last visit to An Tan.", said Tom crabbily.

BRAVO (Continued)

The eight inchers departed from the newly expanded and improved recreation center, leaving the R&R facilities exclusively in the hands of the 175 and assorted detail men.

Recently completed at The Center (which many say combines some of the charm and sophistication of a Florida Everglades marsh with the noontime warmth of the Mojave Desert) was a ping pong table, located in the rear of the wood panelled bar of the intimate Bunny Club. The ping pong table overlooks the clubs understars drinking terrace, which in turn overlooks a sandbagged infantry bunker.

The clubs current manager, SGT Cary Duncan, said the Bunny Club, while not only drinking facility at the Ross Center, is definitely the most popular with the men at Bravo. Duncan, who places such earlier notables as PFC R Ballinger, PFC Al Pardon and Sp5 Dbert Egbert (who left the club to assume a similar job in the United States) said the Bunny Club will probably become even more popular as soon as some beer and soda arrives. Newly renovated at The Center was the swimming hole, which currently features a diving board for E7s and above.

Shopping facilities at Ross have been recently improved to make The Center a bit more competitive with some of the more well known R&R facilities. Added were about 50 Pacex order blanks, which would enable all guests to procure numerous bargains if anyone could find a catalogue. A recent opinion poll conducted in Chu Lai asked a random sample of GIs whether they would prefer to spend their R&Rs in Taipei, Bangkok, Hong Kong or LZ Ross. The responses indicated to Ross officials that The Center definitely needed more effective publicity to extend its popularity beyond the inmates of the hill.

Arriving recently on the maintenance scene was SGT Relph. Into the gun section came CPL Tsuda and PFCs Almond, Augustus, Fife and Garrett, Sp4 Augur and PFCs Irvin and Willard Johnson started working Bravos commo trick. With the mid-June arrival of commoman Johnson, statisticians noted that the battery is far above its quota of Johnsons.



The highlight for the month for Charlie Battery was the Change of Command Ceremony Saturday, 31 May, 1969. We all regret the loss of CPT C. MacNab who DEROSed home early in June. He is given credit for building up our fire base here at Minh Long as well as adding much delight and morale among the troops of Charlie Battery. We are equally fortunate to gain CPT John I. Gerzel who is serving his second tour of duty here in Vietnam. With his experience and already displayed abilities we are assured of much progress here in Charlie Battery. The Change of Command Ceremony was highlighted by the firing of our 8" platoon in ten second intervals. The surprise of the day was that Gun 1 even fired without breaking down. Charlie Battery is definitely on the move.

(Continued on next page.)

CHARLIE (Continued)

Charlie Battery would like to give a formal welcome to all of its new arrivals this month. Arriving here at Binh Long year-long R&R center with bright new green fatigues and unscarred combat boots include Dennis Curren, Alan Odden, Julio Perez-Colon, James Miller, William Loughman, John Bryan, Henry Davis, Joe Greenway, James Ball and CPT John I. Gerzel. Also we bid farewell and congratulate those departing Charlie Battery to return to the land of the big PX. These include Robert Baldwin, Joe Segarra, Charles Loyd, Joe Hair, Leonard Garrard, Bobby Howard, Lawrence Walker, Curtis Lanston, Louis Sota, and CPT Craig C. MacNab.

Army life here in Vietnam is strange. We complain about the bad food, the hot weather, the hard work we have to do and the mail that never seems to get here. There is some justification for the above accusations. Thank goodness for Flicks, beer, and soda. These are the things the troops look forward to everyday. Yes, at times it is bad and sometimes unbearable, but no war is pleasant or ever has been. Now we know what our forefathers had to face and we can appreciate their sacrifices. Even though we complain a lot, I know we all possess a spirit of pride in what we are doing here in Vietnam. When we return back to the world and again take our place in society we can all say proudly "we've done our part."

The big news items for the month at Charlie Battery are as follows. To everyone's surprise Gun I has been up enough to fire some rounds. The commo section will be glad when Gun I gets their new gun so commo can have all their wire back that Gun I has been using to hold their gun together.

James Stamm took the time to prove to his fellow troops that a 400 gallon water tank can definitely knock over a cement water cistern. For those who didn't actually see it you really missed something because I don't think the 1SGT will let Stamm execute an instant replay.

Funny-Flash Can you believe one of our new arrivals asked where the place was he could buy cigarettes here in Binh Long. WOW!!!!

Well this is all for Charlie Battery this month. This is the "Longtimer saying so long until next month and most important of all "take care because the life you save will DEROS."



NEW AMERICAL CG

On Sunday June 1, 1969 the Americal Division received a new Commanding General in a change of command ceremony.

Major General Gettys turned over the Americal Division command to Major General Ramsey after the completion of his year with the division.

Ten men from the Hook and Star battalion represented the 3/18 Artillery in the honor guard at the ceremony.

General Ramsey made his first inspection tour of Artillery Hill on June 5, 1969.

"Mabel, will you marry me?"

"No, but I'll always admire your taste."

HOOK & STAR POLL

One of the first questions someone is asked when they arrive in country is "Where are you from in the world?" It's always a change to find someone from the same area as yourself.

Well we got curious and did a quick survey of the battalion files to find where our people are from.

Surprisingly we have men from every state in the nation except three; Delaware, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

The states we have the most men from in order are:

1. Illinois - 36
2. Texas - 33
3. California - 31
4. Ohio - 28
5. Pennsylvania - 28
6. New York - 26
7. Kentucky - 25
8. Michigan - 20
9. Oklahoma - 20
10. North Carolina - 20

The other states in order include:

Massachusetts - 17	Arizona - 4
Missouri - 15	Arkansas - 4
Indiana - 13	Kansas - 4
Florida - 11	Nebraska - 4
Washington - 11	New Mexico - 4
Alabama - 10	West Virginia - 3
Georgia - 9	Alaska - 2
Iowa - 9	Colorado - 2
Louisiana - 9	Montana - 2
Tennessee - 9	North Dakota - 2
Maryland - 8	Oregon - 2
Minnesota - 8	Hawaii - 1
New Jersey - 8	Idaho - 1
Connecticut - 7	Nevada - 1
Virginia - 7	South Dakota - 1
Wisconsin - 7	Utah - 1
Maine - 5	Vermont - 1
South Carolina - 5	Wyoming - 1
	Mississippi - 1
District of Columbia - 2	
Puerto Rico - 3	

Then there was the man who fell in the lense grinding machine and made a spectacle out of himself.



THE " IN GROUP "

Recently the "Klerks" of the S1 Section, "The Reveille Rebels", were formed together and named the "Midnight Concrete Commandos". The Group had periodically missed the early morning Belly-Button Count (Reveille) when Top decided to impose punishment in a manner rarely seen in the Nam. The punishment read: "For failure to report, you (The Group) will construct a 3-foot slab of cement adjoined to the sidewalk running parallel to the Officers Volleyball Court." Needless to say, the rumor spread around the battery area the first night the Group worked and the next morning, Reveille looked like pay call formation. Everyone showed up for the count. Don't miss it!

CANDID QUOTES HEARD ABOUT THE BATTALION

"I was sure they were VC - I even dropped down 3000 ft. to investigate."

"I know you're meeting your wife in Hawaii, but you still have to get a short briefing from the doctor and I am sure S4 will not let you take those grenades with you."

"Now that we've seen the last reel, how about showing the first two?"

Guard Post #11: "No sir, we didn't shoot down your balloon. The shot came from the 3/16th."

Guard Post 3/16th: "No sir, we didn't shoot it down; the shot came from the rock quarry."

WHAT YOU NOW EARN UNDER THE JULY 1st PAY BOOST

	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10
Q-10	\$1810.20	\$1874.10	\$1874.10	\$1874.10	\$1874.10	\$1945.80	\$1945.80
Q-9	\$1604.40	\$1646.40	\$1681.80	\$1681.80	\$1681.80	\$1724.10	\$1724.10
Q-8	\$1453.20	\$1496.70	\$1532.40	\$1532.40	\$1532.40	\$1646.40	\$1646.40
Q-7	\$1207.20	\$1289.70	\$1289.70	\$1289.70	\$1347.00	\$1347.00	\$1425.30
Q-6	\$894.60	\$983.40	\$1047.60	\$1047.60	\$1047.60	\$1047.60	\$1047.60
Q-5	\$715.50	\$840.90	\$898.20	\$898.20	\$898.20	\$898.20	\$926.10
Q-4	\$603.60	\$734.40	\$783.90	\$783.90	\$798.00	\$833.70	\$890.48
Q-3	\$561.00	\$627.00	\$669.60	\$741.60	\$776.70	\$804.90	\$848.10
Q-2	\$449.70	\$534.00	\$641.40	\$662.70	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50
Q-1	\$386.40	\$427.80	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00
W-4	\$571.20	\$612.90	\$612.90	\$627.00	\$655.20	\$684.00	\$762.90
W-3	\$519.30	\$563.30	\$563.40	\$570.30	\$577.20	\$619.50	\$655.20
W-2	\$454.80	\$491.70	\$491.70	\$506.10	\$534.00	\$563.40	\$584.70
W-1	\$378.90	\$434.70	\$434.70	\$470.70	\$491.70	\$513.00	\$534.00
E-9							\$648.90
E-8						\$544.50	\$559.80
E-7	\$342.30	\$410.10	\$425.40	\$440.40	\$455.40	\$469.80	\$484.80
E-6	\$294.90	\$358.20	\$372.90	\$388.20	\$403.20	\$417.90	\$433.20
E-5	\$254.70	\$313.80	\$328.80	\$343.20	\$365.70	\$380.70	\$395.10
E-4	\$214.20	\$268.50	\$283.50	\$305.70	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00
E-3	\$155.10	\$216.30	\$231.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30
E-2	\$127.80	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10
E-1	\$123.30	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80
	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 26
Q-10	\$2094.90	\$2094.90	\$2244.90	\$2244.90	\$2394.60	\$2394.60	\$2544.30
Q-9	\$1795.80	\$1795.80	\$1945.80	\$1945.80	\$2094.90	\$2094.90	\$2244.90
Q-8	\$1724.10	\$1724.10	\$1795.80	\$1874.10	\$1945.80	\$2024.10	\$2024.10
Q-7	\$1425.30	\$1496.70	\$1646.40	\$1759.80	\$1759.80	\$1759.80	\$1759.80
Q-6	\$1047.60	\$1083.30	\$1254.30	\$1318.50	\$1347.00	\$1425.30	\$1546.20
Q-5	\$975.60	\$1040.70	\$1118.70	\$1182.90	\$1218.30	\$1261.20	\$1261.20
Q-4	\$940.50	\$983.40	\$1026.30	\$1054.80	\$1054.80	\$1054.80	\$1054.80
Q-3	\$890.40	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00
Q-2	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50	\$676.50
Q-1	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00	\$534.00
W-4	\$762.90	\$798.00	\$826.50	\$848.10	\$876.30	\$905.40	\$975.60
W-3	\$676.50	\$698.10	\$719.10	\$741.60	\$769.80	\$798.00	\$826.50
W-2	\$605.70	\$627.00	\$648.00	\$669.60	\$690.90	\$719.10	\$719.10
W-1	\$555.90	\$577.20	\$598.50	\$619.50	\$641.40	\$641.40	\$641.40
E-9	\$663.90	\$679.20	\$694.20	\$709.50	\$723.60	\$761.70	\$835.80
E-8	\$574.50	\$589.80	\$604.80	\$619.20	\$634.50	\$672.00	\$746.40
E-7	\$500.40	\$522.60	\$537.30	\$552.30	\$559.80	\$597.30	\$672.00
E-6	\$455.40	\$469.80	\$484.80	\$492.60	\$492.60	\$492.60	\$492.60
E-5	\$410.10	\$417.90	\$417.90	\$417.90	\$417.90	\$417.90	\$417.90
E-4	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00	\$321.00
E-3	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30	\$246.30
E-2	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10	\$179.10
E-1	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80	\$163.80

WEATHER OR NOT

Well metro was pretty busy with whatever they do to keep them E.D. all the time so we went ahead and got a weather summary of the month of July from the Americal Staff Weather Office.

This summary is based on climatic averages and is not a forecast for the month but gives an idea of what we can expect in the next 31 days.

The southwest monsoon is in full force during July. The weather continues to follow a somewhat regular pattern with afternoon and evening showers continuing to be observed somewhere in the country almost every day. Considerable cloudiness occurs over the Americal AO.

July continues as a relatively dry month along the northeastern coast, but a wet season month elsewhere. A very slight increase in both total rainfall and days with rain occurs this month over June.

Visibilities are generally good, with a low frequency of fog during the summer. Fog is very infrequent along the coastal regions, but may be expected to occur often in the mountainous areas.

July and August are the warmest months in this region, though temperatures in the remainder of the country continue to decrease. Average daily highs along the coast are near 95°F and the extreme high temperature in the country is 108°F at Qui Nhon. Average minimum temperatures at night range from 77-80°F.

Relative humidity is generally high throughout Vietnam, resulting favorably for mildew, corrosion and decay of susceptible items. Humidity variations are from a low of 50-60% during the day to about 90% at night. As with several other weather features, the trend of relative humidities along the northeast coast in July is opposite to that in the remainder of the country. Relative humidities in this area are decreasing towards a mid summer minimum, but increasing elsewhere.

Winds are highly variable and the land and sea breezes in the Americal AO are the major factors in the wind changes.

From 1947 to 1968 a total of 23 typhoons and tropical storms formed or moved into the South China Sea during July; However none of these storms were close enough to land to significantly affect the weather over Vietnam. This does not preclude the possibility of tropical storms forming or moving into this area. The incidence of tropical storms during July in the South China Sea is two every three years and the incidence of typhoons is one every three years.

FIRE PREVENTION



HAVE A SAFE....



TAOISM

This is the second article in our series about the different religions of Vietnam. Since the behavior of the Vietnamese people is influenced greatly by the religions of the country, we publish this series in hopes that we'll all become better acquainted with our little friends.

Taoism (pronounced dowism) had its beginnings in China. Lao Tse (the old one) is generally credited with being its founder. It is essentially of Chinese origin and entered Vietnam with the conquering Chinese armies, unless the Vietnamese brought it with them when they migrated to the Red River delta from China.

Lao Tse lived about 600 B.C. making the religion he is said to have founded slightly older than Confucianism and Buddhism.

Essentially the Tao, or way, taught by Lao Tse is a road or way of life by which a man attains harmony with nature as well as with the mystical currents of the spiritual world. A Taoist accepts all things as they are and attempts to attune his thinking and actions to things as they are; never fighting against them.

Most Taoist worship, rituals and ceremonies are attempts to assist man to attune himself to the universe. To the western mind it would appear that Taoists use magic, witchcraft, fortune-telling and astrology in their worship.

It may appear to one who adheres to one of the western religions as mummary, but to the Taoist all his religious activities have a deep spiritual meaning.

According to the Taoist, factors are as they are and cannot be changed; however astrology and divining by a Taoist priest can forecast which factor can be in greater power at a given day, month or year. Also they believe that the universe is controlled by mystical, almost mythical supreme being from whom occasional mandates come to rulers and

Taoists believe in one supreme being, the emperor of jade, and worship him, other deities who assist him and ancestors.

Although Taoism has a limited formal organization in Vietnam today, the concepts of Taoism are in evidence in the daily life cycle of the Vietnamese.

Many of the more basic beliefs and practices of Taoism have been absorbed into other religions found in Vietnam, and affect the cultural patterns.

These ideas are to be observed in older medical practices; the consultation of horoscopes and astrologers in making marriage arrangements, the selection of days by omens and in the ceremonies of worship pertaining to Spring, Fall, the ploughing of the land and the planting of the seed.





'NO POLARIS, I DON'T THINK IT WILL HELP THE PEACE EFFORT!!



'I COULDN'T FIND ANY REGULATION AGAINST IT!!'

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STATUESQUE BEAUTY — Julie Newman has the most important role in her picture career in "Mackenna's Gold", a Columbia Pictures' production.

